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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **BRITISH TELECOMMUNICATIONS PUBLIC LIMITED COMPANY** [GB/GB]: 81 Newgate Street, London EC1A 7AJ (GB).

(72) Inventors: and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **LUNT, Nicholas** [GB/GB]: 17 Demesne Gardens, Martlesham Heath, Ipswich, Suffolk IP5 3UA (GB). **BIRDSALL, Paul**

[GB/GB]: 44 Suffolk Road, Ipswich, Suffolk IP4 2EZ (GB). **BECKFORD, Michael, William** [GB/GB]: 12 Lawnswood Close, Littleover, Derby, Derbyshire DE23 6JE (GB). **CHATTEL, Andrew, David** [GB/GB]: 314 Colchester Road, Ipswich, Suffolk IP4 4NQ (GB).

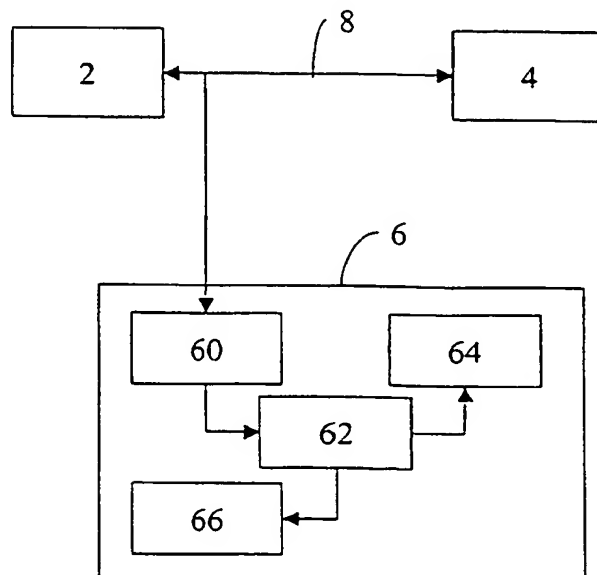
(74) Agent: **LLOYD, Barry, George, William**: BT Group Legal, Intellectual Property Department, Holborn Centre, 8th Floor, 120 Holborn, London EC1N 2TE (GB).

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(54) Title: **FAULT DETECTION METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR TELEPHONE LINES**



(57) **Abstract:** A method and apparatus for detecting faults on a telephone line, the method comprising: comparing measured characteristics of the line with a model, said model modeling expected characteristics of the telephone line; and in response to the comparison, generating a fault alert signal if the comparison between the measured characteristics and the modeled expected characteristics differ by more than a pre-determined threshold, wherein said characteristics comprise characteristics relating to the transmission of data on the line within a plurality of predetermined frequency bands.

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